

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7553

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1447

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CY

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MAKARIOS

SUMMARY: MAKARIOS BELIEVES UNFICYP SHOULD BE REDUCED BY AT LEAST 50 PERCENT IF NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED IN INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS AND DOWN TO 500 LEVEL IF AGREEMENT IS ACHIEVED. END SUMMARY

1. IN 45- MINUTE BAPTISMAL MEETING JUNE 22 ARCHBISHOP TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT A REDUCED UNFICYP WOULD BE DESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT. SUBJECT AROSE WHEN AMBASSADOR CALLED MAKARIOS' ATTENTION TO SCALI STATEMENT IN SECURITY COUNCIL JUNE 15 IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE HOW SERIOUS USG WAS IN SEEING SIZE AND CHARACTER OF FORCE RADICALLY ALTERED.

2. NODDING AGREEMENT MAKARIOS WAS QUICK TO DECLARE THAT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, THE FORCE HAD TO BE CUT. IT " SHOULD BE" AT LEAST 50 PERCENT IF NO AGREEMENT REALIZED AND ALL THE WAY DOWN TO " SOMETHING LIKE 500" IF HOPEFULLY AGREEMENT COMES. EITHER WAY, THE REMAINING FORCE WOULD HAVE TO BE REDESIGNATED HE SAID. HE WOULD BE AGAINST A TOTAL AND ABRUPT WITHDRAWAL OF UN PRESENCE EVEN IF AGREEMENT REALIZED. PARENTHETICALLY, HE BELIEVES THAT FORCE REDUCTION ABSENT AGREEMENT WOULD BE SALUTARY IN ACHIEVING SOME MEASURE OF DECONFRONTATION BETWEEN GREEKS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TURKS ON THE GROUND.

3. ON PRESENT STATUS OF TALKS MAKARIOS REPEATED FAMILIAR
REFRAIN THAT IF TURKISH DEMANDS ON AUTOMONY WERE MODIFIED
AN AGREEMENT COULD BE STRUCK. GOC WILL NOT GRANT TURKISH
COMMUNITY STATUS OF STATE WITHIN STATE, BUT HE IS NOT DIS-
COURAGED, SAYING THAT IF IT NOT IN THE CARDS NOW TALKS MUST
CONTINUE " THREE MONTHS, SIX MONTHS, A YEAR." AMBASSADOR
RESPONDED THAT US HAS SOME EXPERIENCE IN NEGOTIATIONS WHERE
OBJECTIVES OF BOTH SIDES APPEARED IRRECONCILABLE BUT REQUIRE-
MENTS ON BOTH TO REMAIN AT THE TABLE ARE COMPELLING.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF POSSIBLE RECESS IN TALKS
MAKARIOS PREFERENCES AUGUST WHEN HE WILL BE IN CANADA FOR
COMMONWEALTH MEETING. CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT HE WANTED TO
BE ON HAND TO RIDE HERD ON CLERIDES. TIMING OF RECESS WOULD
COINCIDE WITH DESIRE OF OSORIO-TAFALL WHO TOLD AMBASSADOR
YESTERDAY HE AND PREM CHAND WOULD LIKELY BE GOING TO NEW
YORK IN AUGUST. TURKS' PREFERENCE ON RECESS HAS BEEN FOR
JULY PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE ALDIKACTI WANTS TO VACATION THEN
IN EUROPE. ODDS ARE IF RECESS OCCURS IT WILL BE IN AUGUST,
OR PERHAPS FOR MOST OF BOTH MONTHS.

5. IN EARLIER BRIEF MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER,
AMBASSADOR GAVE HIM COPY OF SCALI UNSC STATEMENT AND UNDER-
LINED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO QUESTION OF UNFICYP RESTRUCT-
URING.

6. FOREIGN MINISTRY (VENIAMIN) HAD EARLIER SKETCHED OUT
VIEWS VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPRESSED BY ARCHBISHOP, BUT
HAS SAID GOC NOT PRESSING THEM PUBLICLY BECAUSE TO DO SO
WOULD SIMPLY GENERATE TURKISH PRESSURE TO KEEP UNFICYP AT
PRESENT LEVEL. WE AGREED INFORMALLY AS TO MERITS OF THIS
APPROACH, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ARCHBISHOP TO
MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN PRIVATELY TO UNSYG AND PERHAPS TO
OTHER CONTRIBUTORS SUCH AS BRITISH. WE WILL ENCOURAGE HIM
IN THAT DIRECTION.
COMMENT: THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION WITH ONLY AMBASSADOR PRESENT
ATMOSPHERE UTTERLY SERENE. MAKING UNNECESSARY APOLOGIES
FOR HIS ENGLISH, MAKARIOS SPOKE NOSTALGICALLY ABOUT HIS
DAYS AS STUDENT IN BOSTON, HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT
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KENNEDY, WHOM HE HAD KNOWN AS SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS, AND
OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN 1971. HE PRAISED
PRESIDENT NIXON FOR HIS BOLD INITIATIVES IN EAST/ WEST
RELATIONS. EXUDING DIVINE CONFIDENCE, HE SAID DETERMINEDLY
THAT CYPRUS WOULD REMAIN POLICIALLY NON- ALIGNED BUT ALWAYS
ORIENTED INTELLECTUALLY TO THE WEST.

7. EVEN IF ALL OF THIS WAS TO SHOW ONLY HIS WINNING SIDE, IT
WAS MORE THAN JUST GOOD THEATRE. ALL HERE AGREE THAT EVERY-
THING MAKARIOS SAYS MUST BE PARSED CAREFULLY. THEREFORE, IT
WAS EASILY THE MOST VALUABLE 45 MINUTES THE AMBASSADOR HAS
SPENT SO FAR. THE ARCHBISHOP INVITED THE AMBASSADOR TO
ASSUME THAT A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT NEED NOT INVOLVE ONLY
CYPRUS.

8. ESCORTING THE AMBASSADOR OUTSIDE MAKARIOS COMMENTED ON THE
BURDENS OF BEARING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH AND STATE
AND HOW HE MUST PARCEL HIS TIME. SMILING BENEIFICENTLY, HE
REMARKED THAT HIS TEMPORAL OFFICE WAS " AFTER ALL ONLY TEMPORARY."

9. DRIVING AWAY ONE CAN' T FAIL BUT NOTICE THAT HER
MAJESTY' S COAT OF ARMS IS STILL INSCRIBED IN STONE ABOVE THE
ENTRANCE TO THIS FORMER RESIDENCE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNOR
GENERAL. THE SIGHT OF THE ARCHBISHOP BIDDING FAREWELL FROM
UNDER THE HERALDIC INSCRIPTION " HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE"
AND " DIEU ET MON DROIT" IS NOTHING LESS THAN SHEER POETRY.
BEAUTIFUL*
MC CLOSKEY

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